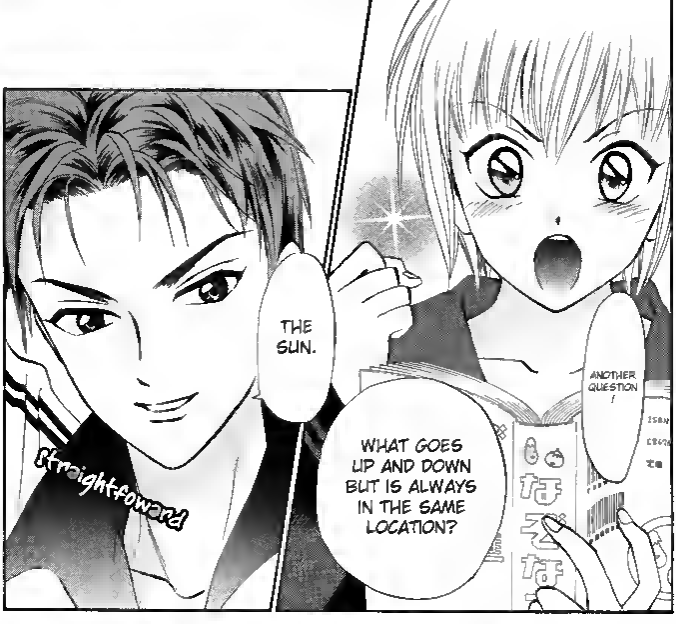
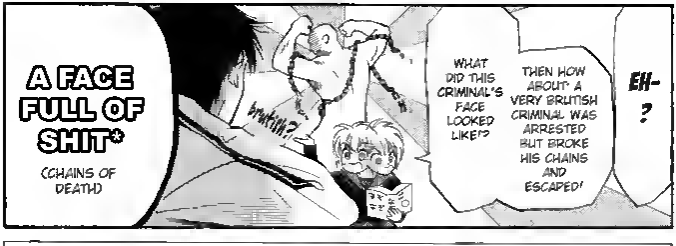



EH-?
THEN HOW ABOUT A VERY BRUTISH CRIMINAL WAS ARRESTED BUT BROKE HIS CHAINS AND ESCAPED!
WHAT DID THIS CRIMINAL'S FACE LOOKED LIKE!?
brutish?
A FACE FULL OF SHIT*
(CHAINS OF DEATH)

Behind the Scenes...

Lately, I haven't seen very many of these 1/4 type chapter introductions. Magazines often use the space to introduce characters or the story summary.

Normally, I just draw some pictures, make it look like the part of the manga. Even if there's a summary to draw, if the story has no obstacles, then the transition will be too smooth (laugh). But sometimes the transition is difficult and and that's why there will be situations where space is available. It should be ok to say this here, right? Ahahaha. I prefer to continue drawing the story with such a break, but I also like this type of 1/4 very much too.

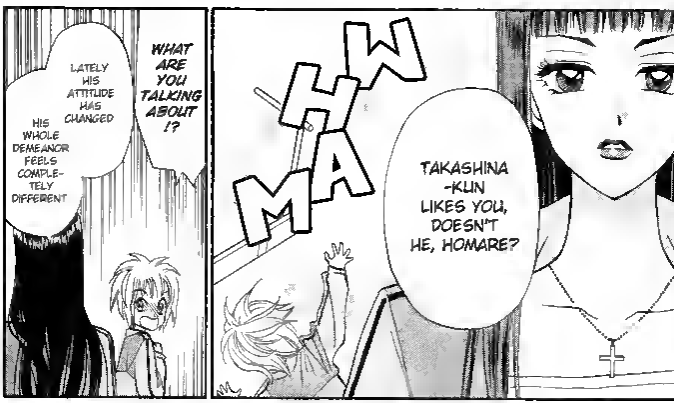
* TL Note: Japanese puns that play off the sound of words

WOW, HOW LAME!
SO OLD...
WHAT EXACTLY ARE THOSE TWO DOING SO EARLY IN THE MORNING
ANTI-BIOTIC
WHAT IS THE MAIN COMPONENT OF BIRTH CONTROL PILLS?
WHAT LIES BETWEEN HELL AND EARTH?
MORTS
A COW THAT HAS A HEAT BUT NO BODY. WHAT IS IT CALLED?
A HEAT OF COW
I'M NOT WORRIED ——
I'M SURE I CAN FIND AN EVEN STRANGER RIDDLE~
I MUST WIN!
FORGET IT
WITH THIS LEVEL OF DIFFICULTY THE ANSWERS ARE PRETTY OBVIOUS
MANY OF THEM ARE A PLAY ON WORDS THESE ARE TOO DATED
IS TAKASHINA-SAN THAT SORT OF PERSON?
THEY'RE LIKE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL KIDS WHO DELIGHT IN BEATING EACH OTHER.
HA HA HA
LOOKS LIKE THEY GOT SIDETRACKED PLAYING RIDDLES
AH HOMARE IS SUPPOSE TO BE HELPING HIM WITH HIS PHYSIO
He's also very stand-offish.
YEAH BASED ON WHAT I'VE SEEN
I SEE
IT FEELS LIKE...

EVER SINCE LAST WEEKEND'S SCOUTING TRIP, THOSE TWO HAVE CHANGED.
That's right,
ever since then Oto chan's demenor has become more and more gentle
We are also working together more often
THIS IS THE PERFECT HEIGHT TO REST MY ARM ON
Of course he teases me a lot more too.
NYA~
NYA~
WOW, ARE THERE EVEN MORE CATS NOW!?
Y YAH
SEEMS LIKE THEY WILL SUDDENLY APPEAR...
Uhm are mine
Uhm are mine
TUNG OWEN
THIS ONE IS VERY FRIENDLY
TRY HOLDING HIM.
NI
EH
WAH ...

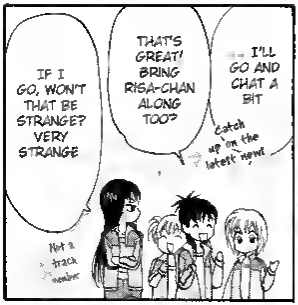
AH
HMM?
LIH HUH
THIS ONE IS VERY TINY
oh cute~
NEVER-MIND.
EVEN THOUGH I HATE TO ASK BUT
WHO ARE YOU REFER-RING TO?
AH
PAT PAT
IT IS SO VERY VERY TINY
DING
DONG
ALWAYS MAKES ME FEEL VERY HAPPY
THIS DISTANCE BETWEEN US,
EVEN THOUGH IT'S JUST IRRELEVANT EVERYDAY CHATTER,

WAI
WAI
WAI
WAI
That girl is cute!
Whoa
AH, IT'S KIPPEI.
WHEN-EVER THE GIRLS HAVE GYM, IT ALWAYS CAUSES A SCENE
ISN'T THERE A SCHOOL OFFICIAL WHO CAN CONTROL THEM?
So amazing
A HA HA HA
WHAT A MORON!


WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT!?
LATELY HIS ATTITUDE HAS CHANGED
HIS WHOLE DEMEANOR FEELS COMPLE-TELY DIFFERENT
HWA MA
TAKASHINA -KUN LIKES YOU, DOESN'T HE, HOMARE?

HEH
RIGHT? RIGHT?
WHAT ABOUT IKOUMA-YAN? HE LIKES YOU VERY MUCH TOO, RIGHT?
NO WAY!
SFX CRACKLE CRACKLE
ザワ ザワ ザワ
I DIDN'T SAY ANY-THING AT ALL!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!!
Just whom are you referring to...?
What's with these two?
ANYWAY, THERE'S ABSOLUTELY NO WAY THAT OTO-CHAN LIKES ME. THAT'S IMPOSSIBLE
ISN'T IT A BIT SAD TO TALK ABOUT YOURSELF LIKE THAT?
...KIND OF LIKE WHAT HAPPENED THIS MORNING
TREAT-ING YOU LIKE A CHILD
YAH!
LIKE I WAS ONE OF HIS LITTLE ORPHANAGE FRIENDS EVEN

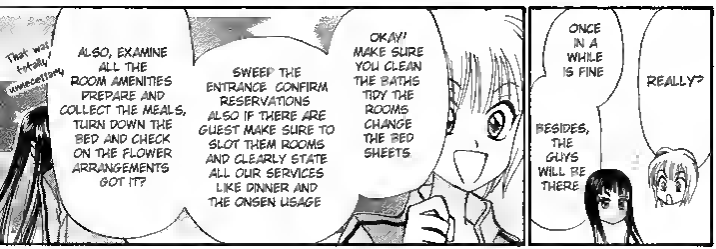
TREATING ME JUST LIKE ONE OF THOSE CATS!?
DON'T LET YOUR IMAGINATION RUN AWAY ON YOU.
STAMPEDE
SFX DREADFUL REALIZATION
WHAT!?
WAH!
GR
AB
HOMARE, I NEED TO TALK TO YOU!
BUT I'M NOT A MEMBER...
YEAH
OF COURSE YOU ARE... AREN'T YOU PLANNING ON REJOINING THE TEAM?
THE TRACK TEAM IS THROWING A JOINT PARTY WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL'S TRACK CLUB?
BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH PEOPLE HOMARE, DO YOU WANT TO GO WITH US?
YUP TOMORROW!
KYA-KYA-Eh!
You look pretty even when wearing your gym clothes!


IF I GO, WON'T THAT BE STRANGE? VERY STRANGE
THAT'S GREAT! BRING RISA-CHAN ALONG TOO?
I'LL GO AND CHAT A BIT
Catch up on the latest news!
Not a track member

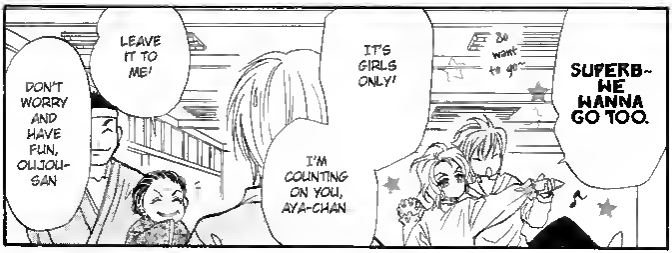
IF OTO-CHAN'S REHABILITATION GOES SMOOTHLY,
HE WILL PROBABLY ALSO REJOIN THE TRACK TEAM -
AH

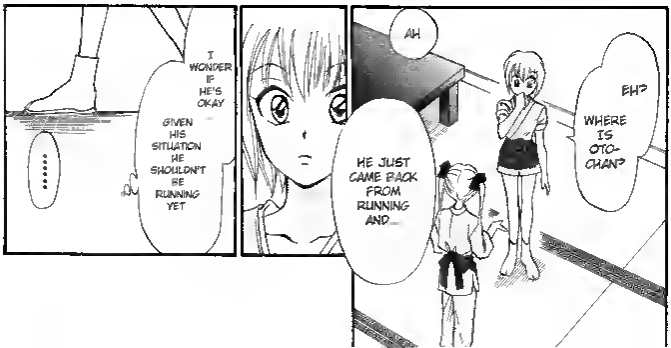
STAMPEDE AWAY
STOP FLAPPING YOUR GUMS AND START RUNNING!
TAKEHIRO
HEY!

YOU'LL BE GONE ONLY HALF A DAY. I THINK WE CAN MANAGE.
Sakaori is only a holiday tomorrow
BUT IF I GO, I WON'T BE BACK AT THE INN UNTIL VERY LATE!?
SHOULD YOU NOT TAKE A BREAK OCCASIONALLY?
IT WILL BE GOOD FOR YOU TO GET OUT YOU'RE ALWAYS THINKING ABOUT WORK

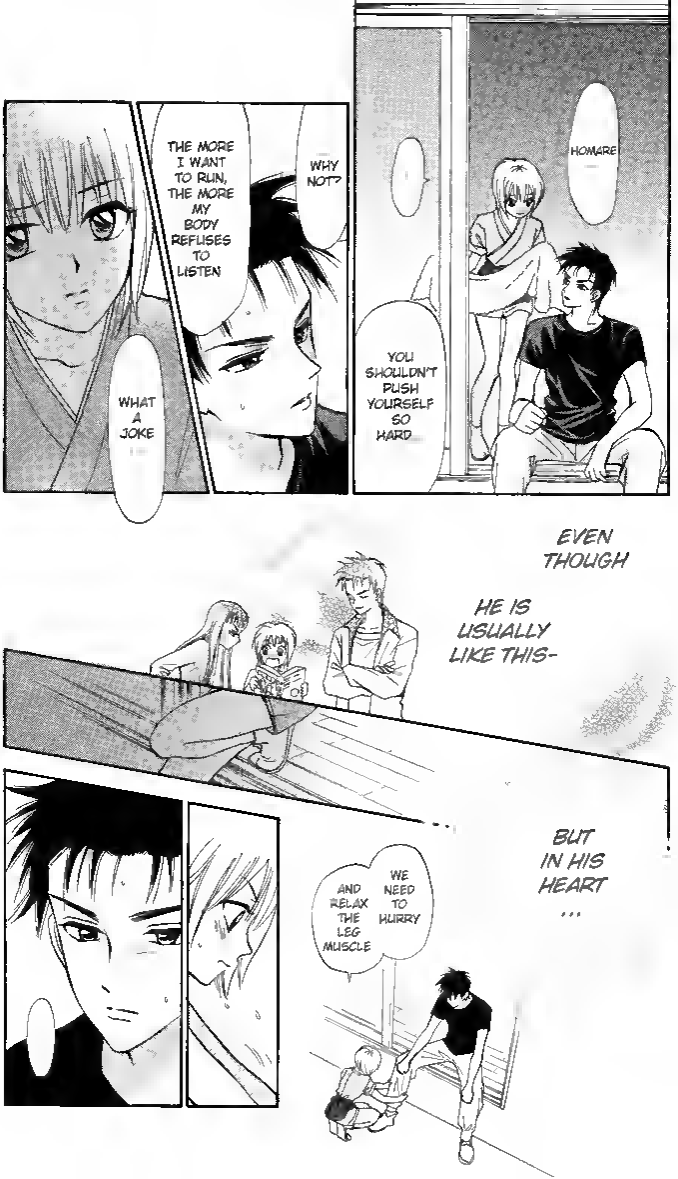

That was totally unnecessary
ALSO, EXAMINE ALL THE ROOM AMENITIES PREPARE AND COLLECT THE MEALS, TURN DOWN THE BED AND CHECK ON THE FLOWER ARRANGEMENTS GOT IT?
SWEEP THE ENTRANCE CONFIRM RESERVATIONS ALSO IF THERE ARE GUEST MAKE SURE TO SLOT THEM ROOMS AND CLEARLY STATE ALL OUR SERVICES LIKE DINNER AND THE ONSEN USAGE
OKAY! MAKE SURE YOU CLEAN THE BATHS TIDY THE ROOMS CHANGE THE BED SHEETS
ONCE IN A WHILE IS FINE
REALLY?
BESIDES, THE GUYS WILL BE THERE

TOMORROW IS OUR FIRST HIGH SCHOOL PARTY!
EH !?
It's our honor!
Is it true? Can I really come...?
RAN WAY.
Hence.


SUPERB~ WE WANNA GO TOO.
Do want to go~
IT'S GIRLS ONLY!
I'M COUNTING ON YOU, AYA-CHAN
LEAVE IT TO ME!
DON'T WORRY AND HAVE FUN, OUJOU-SAN


I WONDER IF HE'S OKAY
GIVEN HIS SITUATION HE SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING YET
.....
AH
EH?
WHERE IS OTO-CHAN?
HE JUST CAME BACK FROM RUNNING AND...

OTO-CHAN
!
SL
A
M


HOMARE
YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD
WHY NOT?
THE MORE I WANT TO RUN, THE MORE MY BODY REFUSES TO LISTEN
WHAT A JOKE
EVEN THOUGH
HE IS USUALLY LIKE THIS-
BUT IN HIS HEART ...
WE NEED TO HURRY
AND RELAX THE LEG MUSCLE

BECAUSE, I KNOW THAT OTO-CHAN IS TRYING HIS BEST.
THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING FUNNY ABOUT IT
IF ANYONE DARES LAUGH AT YOU I'D NEVER FORGIVE THEM
I CAN SEE THIS MORE CLEARLY THAN ANYONE ELSE.
...DON'T RUSH IT, TAKE YOUR TIME.
RUFFLE RUFFLE
...
THIS IS ALL I CAN DO FOR HIM.

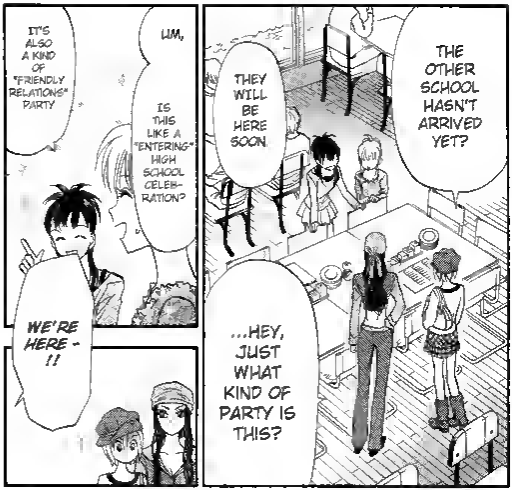
I HOPE I CAN CALM HIS HEART EVEN JUST A LITTLE.
GO AND SOAK IN THE ONSEN IMMEDIATELY !!
Messing up my hair yet again!
YES MA'AM!
OVER HERE, OVER HERE!
HOMARE

Regarding the Original Drawings

My speed at finishing the original drawings has greatly increased. It's gotten faster ever since I started Gokuraku.

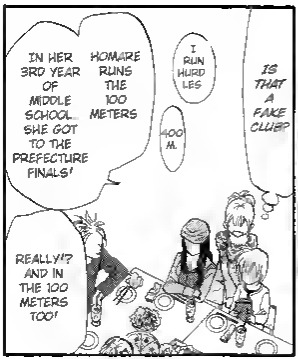
It should be fairly obvious to all readers! That's because there is almost no action scenes (laugh) Manga with a lot action scenes take a lot of time to draw. 30 pages can often take 4 days to write the storyline and then 6 days to draw. Of course, if the following storyline is different, it may add time or it may lessen it.

With W-Juliet, just the number of characters were a lot~ Writing the storyline would take, at my fastest pace, 2 days. At the slowest, 7 days. Drawing it would take at least 5 days. (When my ass was held to the fire) If the script takes up too much time, it chews into my drawing time. On average, the whole process takes 6 days?


IT'S ALSO A KIND OF "FRIENDLY RELATIONS" PARTY
UM,
IS THIS LIKE A "ENTERING" HIGH SCHOOL CELEBRATION?
WE'RE HERE - !!
THEY WILL BE HERE SOON
THE OTHER SCHOOL HASN'T ARRIVED YET?
...HEY, JUST WHAT KIND OF PARTY IS THIS?

TL Note: Ganbei is the Japanese equivalent of "Cheers & Bottoms Up"

IF WE WERE DISCOVERED GOING OUT WITH GUYS FROM OUR SCHOOL, WE'D GET KICKED OUT!!
BUT THEY REALLY ARE TRACK-TEAM MEMBERS!
I'M SORRY I TRICKED YOU, HOMARE!


IN HER 3RD YEAR OF MIDDLE SCHOOL SHE GOT TO THE PREFECTURE FINALS!
HOMARE RUNS THE 100 METERS
I RUN HURDLES
400 M.
IS THAT A FAKE CLUB?
REALLY!? AND IN THE 100 METERS TOO!

YOU'RE REALLY PRETTY~
So cool!
WHAT CLUB DO YOU BELONG TO?
THE GOING HOME CLUB
HAHA, I'M A PART-TIME MEMBER OF THAT CLUB TOO!
IF YOU'RE DISCOVERED WITH GUYS FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL, WON'T YOU ALSO GET KICKED OUT?

SAKAMAKI'S TAKASHINA!!
OH YEAH, SPEAKING OF RETIRED,
...
AH go ahead
WELL... IT'S BECAUSE OF FAMILY ISSUES
THAT'S SUCH A WASTE
WHY NOT?
ALTHOUGH, I'M NOT RUNNING ANYMORE
WHATEVER YOUR FOLKS ARE PISSING AROUT! JUST IGNORE IT
IF THAT'S THE CASE, WHO CARES!
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER
RIGHT NOW, HE'S PROBABLY DOING SOME REHABILI-TATION?
EVEN MADE IT ALL THE WAY TO THE NATIONALS
YAH I HEARD THAT TOO
HE WAS PRETTY FAMOUS BEFORE THAT
I HEARD THAT HE ALSO CAN'T RUN ANYMORE FOR PERSONAL REASONS
HEH. SUCKS TO BE HIM. HARD TO BELIEVE~~~!
HA HA HA
A HA

SILE——NCE
.. YOU OBVIOUSLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING. FUNNY, MY ASS!
EH
I'M SORRY SHE IS A TAKASHINA FAN
STOP, HOMARE!
YOU JERKS DON'T EVEN COMPARE TO HIS PINKIE!
THE REAL LOSERS HERE ARE THE BUNCH OF YOU!!

I WILL RUN AGAIN.
DEFINITELY.
IT'S OVER. THERE'S NO CHANCE
THERE'S NO WAY HE CAN MAKE A COMEBACK
AHAHAHA! IT'S GREAT! THE COMPETITION HAS DISAPPEARED
BAM

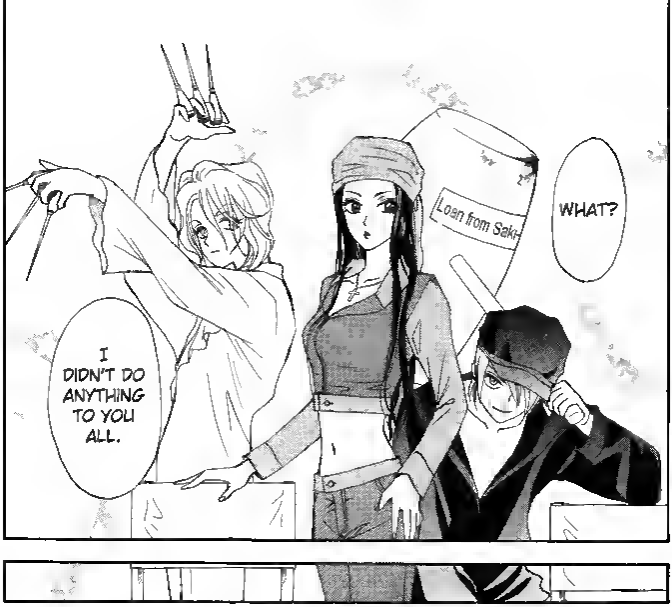
YOU'RE NOTHING BUT A BUNCH OF PRETENTIOUS JERKS!
ARE YOU 3 YEARS OLD!?
I CAN SEE THAT NONE OF YOU ARE SERIOUS ABOUT TRACK. WHO ARE YOU TO LOOK DOWN ON HIM!?
EVEN IF HE CAN'T RUN,
HE'S STILL COOLER THAN YOU 100 TIMES OVER!!
THAT GOES FOR THE REHABILITATION 100!
HE IS AN IMPORTANT PERSON TO ME. I WON'T ALLOW YOU TO MAKE FUN OF HIM!
!
LIKE TAKASHINA-SAN, DON'T YOU?
YOU

ABOUT THAT STUFF EARLIER, I'M SORRY
AH
EH!?
HEY, COME TO THE BIG MEET IN MAY AND CHEER ME ON?
I LOVE GIRLS LIKE YOU
AFTER-WARDS I ASSURE YOU THAT I'LL BE MORE SERIOUS ABOUT THE TRACK CLUB.
I'M BEING HONEST YOU SHOULD WAKE UP AND SMELL THE COFFEE!!
RIGHT NOW YOU'RE BEING SET UP WITH US
THAT'S RIGHT THAT'S RIGHT
IT'S OK JUST QUICKLY FORGET ABOUT IT
AH
EH!?
THE PERSON PICKING HER UP
WHY?
IT'D BE BETTER IF YOU LET GO OF HER
SORRY TO CUT IN HERE BUT...
HE'S NOT THE KIND OF GUY I WOULD EVER LIKE!!
calling?
IS HERE.

WELL THEN, LET'S GO
UH, YEAH
IS THIS ALL YOUR STUFF?
HE LOOKS FAMILIAR.
?
?
!!
HE HEARD THE WHOLE CONVERSATION
GRRRR
...
WHAT!?
WHO?
WHO'S HE?
OF COURSE WHO WOULDN'T BE FASTER AFTER HEARING ALL THAT.
YOU ARE REALLY FAST.
HEY, JUST A SEC!
STOP!
YOU HAVE NO BUSINESS HERE AND I'M NOT FINISHED TALKING TO HER. WHO ARE YOU TO TAKE HER AWAY!
THERE ARE THINGS I STILL NEED TO TELL HER.
OTO-CHAN
.....

THIS PERSON IS ALREADY OFF LIMITS.

IT WOULD HAVE BEEN BETTER IF HE HAD SAID IT MORE CLEARLY
NEVERMIND, I'VE SEEN SOMETHING PRETTY AMUSING
WELL, I'M ALSO OFF
EH?
How should I address her?
PLEASE STAY A LITTLE LONGER AND TALK WITH US!
bo——zen


I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO YOU ALL.
Losn from Saki
WHAT?

WE'RE JUST FRIENDS
IT'S SUCH A STRANGE EXPLA-NATION
WHY AM I SAYING ALL THIS

IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULD NOT HAVE GONE
I DIDN'T THINK THAT IT WOULD BE A SETUP
THANK YOU

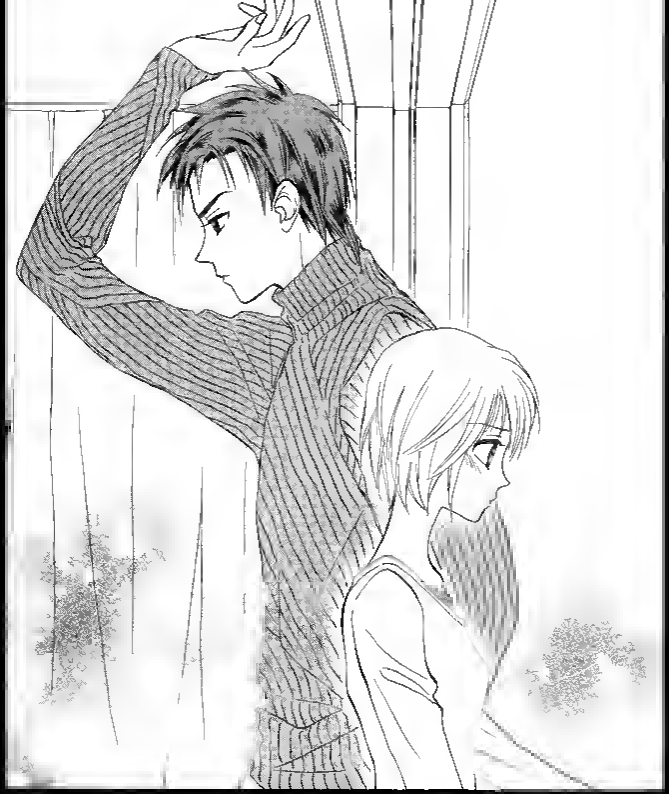
I WOULD NEVER HAVE EXPECTED YOU TO DEFEND ME LIKE THAT
NO, THANK YOU
THE ONLY REASON HE SAID THOSE THINGS WAS TO...
RESCUE ME FROM THAT SITUATION.
QUESTION.
WHAT GOES UP AND DOWN BUT IS ALWAYS SHINING IN THE SAME SPOT?
HE HEARD THAT PART
IT WAS NO PROB LEM
?
THE ~SUN~
RIGHT ?
IT IS ~HOMARE~

STOP IT, OTO-CHAN IS BEING SUCH A TEASE!
EH!?
WHAT I JUST SAID IS THE TRUTH
HOHARE
BECAUSE OF YOUR MOTHER AND THE INN
YOU MADE THE DECISION NOT TO FALL IN LOVE I UNDERSTAND
SO
I WON'T TAKE IT ANY FURTHER
BUT
I WON'T ALLOW ANYONE ELSE TO HAVE YOU EITHER.

WHEN THAT DAY COMES AND YOU FEEL YOU ARE READY,
... I WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU.

DOKI
極楽生
ARA, YOU ARE BACK, OUJOU-SAN!
WHY ARE YOU STANDING THERE?
Come and eat dinner Oto-chan
...
WHAT WE JUST TALKED ABOUT
PLEASE DON'T MIND IT
HEY, TELL ME SOMETHING,
HOW DO I BECOME STRONG LIKE YOU...?
The truth is.

I'm not strong at all.
If I start to rely on him
whether it's my parents or the inn, I will forget about everything else
At that time I will only be able to see him
No matter what, I can t let that happen
I can't believe he said that
it's better if I forget about it completely
Forget about it.
DINNER IS READY!
WE DION T EAT BEFORE
I'M HUNGRY ~~~!
LET'S EAT!



HOWEVER...

CREDITS

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